New rail project in Punjab

1512. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has proposed any new rail projects in the State; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) and (b) As per available records, Government of Punjab has requested for a new rail line from Khemkaran to Firozpur to provide a direct connectivity between Amritsar to Firozpur. Earlier, a survey in this area had been conducted in February, 2002 for Patti (near Khemkaran) to Mahlam (near Firozpur) at a cost of Rs. 121.60 crore with rate of return as (-) 30.12%. In view of heavy throw forward of ongoing projects, limited availability of resources and unremunerative nature, the proposed new line was not taken up.

Rail service between Qazigund and Baramulla

† 1513. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when train services between Qazigund and Baramulla in Kashmir are going to commence;

(b) the details of proposed train services in other sections in Kashmir in addition to the above; and

(c) the plan to link Kashmir to other parts of country through rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) Qazigund-Baramulla section is targeted for completion by May, 2008. Train services between Qazigund and Baramulla in Kashmir are planned to be commenced in 2008-09.

(b) Udhampur-Katra section is planned for completion by December, 2008.

(c) The plan to link Kashmir to other parts of the country through rail line is by 2011-12 after completion of works on Katra-Qazigund section.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

1514. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of gauge conversion between Bhiladi, Samdari has been given to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details of the progress;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.